

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating between a first wireless network device and a second wireless network device using a wireless network communications protocol without revealing the identities of the first and second wireless network devices to a third party, said method comprising:

randomly selecting identification numbers for the first wireless network device and the second wireless network device;

exchanging by the first and second wireless network devices, the randomly selected identification numbers at connection establishment;

after connection establishment, switching the first and second wireless network devices to an encrypted connection ~~after connection establishment~~, which the third party cannot decrypt;

exchanging by the first and second wireless network devices, pseudo random identities over the encrypted connection; and

utilizing by the first and second wireless network devices, the pseudo random identities to set up subsequent connections.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of randomly selecting includes randomly selecting the identification numbers on a periodic basis.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of randomly selecting includes randomly selecting the identification numbers at random intervals.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of randomly selecting includes randomly selecting the identification numbers at a beginning of a transaction.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of randomly selecting includes receiving randomly selected identification numbers from a source located remotely from the first and second wireless network devices.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating from a first wireless network device to a second wireless network device using a wireless network communications protocol without revealing an identity of the first wireless network device to a third party, comprising the steps of:

generating a random identification number at the first wireless network device;

using the random identification number to request ~~requesting~~ a temporary identification number for the first wireless network device from a source located remotely from the first wireless network device;

receiving the temporary identification number from the remote source responsive to the request; and

transmitting information from the first wireless network device to the second wireless network device utilizing the temporary identification number ~~device~~ instead of the identity of the first wireless network device.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 13~~ Claim 12, wherein the step of generating a random identification number comprises the step of randomly generating a portion of bits comprising a wireless network device address.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, further including the step of periodically regenerating the portion of the bits comprising the wireless network device address.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 13~~ Claim 12, wherein the step of generating a random identification number comprises the step of randomly generating 32 bits of the 48 bits of the wireless network device addresses.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 13~~ Claim 12, wherein the step of generating a random identification number comprises the step of randomly generating lower address part (LAP) and upper address part (UAP) fields of a wireless network device address.

18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the remote source is a device that is not operating according to the wireless network communication protocol.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the remote source is a device operating according to the wireless network communications protocol.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of randomly selecting includes:

storing multiple temporary identification numbers within the first wireless network device; and

randomly selecting one of the multiple temporary identification numbers as the temporary randomly selected identification number for the first wireless network device.

24-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating between a first wireless network device and a second wireless network device without revealing an identity of the first wireless network device to the second wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

generating a temporary identification number at the first wireless network device using an algorithm within the first wireless network device, wherein the algorithm is known only to the first wireless network device;

inserting the temporary identification number as a wireless network identification number into a message to be transmitted from the first wireless network device;

inserting a period of time the temporary identification number is valid into the message;

transmitting the message from the first wireless network device to the second wireless network device utilizing the temporary identification number instead of the identity of the first wireless network device; and

periodically obtaining a new temporary identification number to be associated with a wireless network communications protocol.

32-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling ~~anonymous~~ communications between a first wireless network device and a second wireless network device without revealing the identities of the first and second wireless network devices to a third party, comprising the steps of:

establishing ~~an encrypted connection~~ between the first wireless network device and the second wireless network device, an encrypted connection which the third party cannot decrypt;

exchanging a non-temporary identification number and an index value over the encrypted connection between the first wireless network device and the second wireless network device;

generating a temporary identification number using the non-temporary identification number and an index value; and

establishing subsequent connections between the first wireless network device and the second wireless network device using the temporary identification number as a wireless network identification number associated with the first device.

44-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating information from a first wireless device to a second wireless device without revealing the identity of the first wireless device or its user to a third party, said method comprising:

randomly selecting an identification number for the first wireless device;

generating an access code identifying a format of the temporary identification number, wherein the access code is understood by the second wireless device but not the third party; and

transmitting information from the first wireless device to the second wireless device, said information including the temporary identification number and the access code;

wherein information is communicated between the first wireless device and the second wireless device without revealing to the ~~second wireless device~~ third party, the identity of the first wireless device or its user.

47. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating information between a first wireless device and a second wireless device without revealing the identity of the first wireless device or its user to a third party, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing ~~an encrypted connection~~ between the first wireless device and the second wireless device, an encrypted connection which the third party cannot decrypt;

exchanging a non-temporary identification number and an index value over the encrypted connection between the first and the second wireless devices, the non-temporary identification number and index value being associated with the first wireless device;

generating a temporary identification number using the non-temporary identification number and the index value; and

establishing a second connection between the first wireless device and the second wireless device using the temporary identification number as an identification number associated with the first wireless network device;

wherein information is communicated between the first wireless device and the second wireless device without revealing to the ~~second wireless device~~ third party, the identity of the first wireless device or its user.

48. (Canceled)